



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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31 JANUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF

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1. World Reaction

London is the only West European capital so far to have reacted officially to President Johnson's announcement this morning. British officials said their government "looked with sympathy" on the reasons that led to the resumption of bombing.

In Asia, the official Japanese reaction has been somewhat more sympathetic to the West than in the past. The Japanese cabinet secretary publicly expressed his government's regret that the failure of the Communists to respond to US peace efforts had forced the resumption of bombing. He added that Japan hoped that the US would continue its peace efforts as promised.

Malaysia has also reacted sympathetically. Several other non-Communist Asian capitals have reported the President's announcement, but none has made an official comment.

Moscow's reaction contained nothing new. The official Soviet statement broadcast this afternoon said that the resumption of air raids on "peaceful towns and villages" aggravates the international situation still further. It promised that the Soviet Union would continue giving the North Vietnamese "the necessary aid and support." The statement also noted that "no matter how the US Government assesses Hanoi's position, nothing can justify the new acts of aggression which trample underfoot the elementary standards of human morality."

Hanoi and Peking are yet to be heard from.

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2. Soviet Union

The expected lunar probe was launched this morning. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It is probably designed to make a soft landing.

The Soviets are giving very high priority to this effort; this is their seventh attempt in the past ten months.

3. India

Demonstrations against the government's food policy are continuing in Kerala State, the Communists' Indian stronghold. Police used tear gas today to break up a student mob.

Mrs. Gandhi had tried to head off these demonstrations and accompanying strikes by rescinding an earlier cut in the rice ration. The Communists, however, evidently see the food situation as too good an opportunity to miss.

4. Indonesia

There is new evidence that the Indonesian anti-Communist drive of recent months has hit the Chinese Communists hard. [REDACTED]

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5. South Vietnam

Some 10,000 US, South Vietnamese, and South Korean troops involved in Operation MASHER continue to press their offensive against heavily entrenched enemy forces in northeast Binh Dinh Province.

MASHER so far has resulted in Communist losses of 312 killed, 103 captured, and 393 suspects detained. Allied casualties stand at 93 killed (68 US) and 244 wounded (147 US).

Battalion-strength elements of the 2d Korean Marine Brigade participating with US troops in Operation VAN BUREN in Phu Yen Province were attacked twice yesterday by two separate Viet Cong forces. One of these enemy contingents was estimated to number 200 men. Both assaults were successfully repulsed and 179 Communist troops were killed.

6. Common Market

The Council meetings last Friday and Saturday reached an agreement--still subject to approval by Paris and Rome--that will evidently permit France to end its six-month boycott. It is possible that now some of the most pressing community business can be handled. Issues of principle remain unresolved, however, and prospects for sustained cooperation are by no means bright.

The French fell far short of getting their maximum demands, though the five others gave some ground. The issue of majority voting was, in effect, by-passed. Other issues, such as the supranational powers of the Commission, will be subject to further negotiations.

7. Bolivia

General Barrientos, likely winner in next July's presidential election, is shortly to return home from his European trip.

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